

Target Talk

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION NEWS



Quarterly Newsletter

Winter Issue 2018

No. 164

Mission: To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generation

Coordinator's Column



TYHP Stonewall Super Hunt Photo – "Heading to the Blinds"

The holiday seasons bring such joys to hunters! With time off during the winter break, hunting families and friends frequent woods and marshes; surprise each other with Christmas gifts of hunting clothing, gear and gadgets; and celebrate the end of another fantastic year by reliving outdoor memories and planning new ones for the coming year.

As I look back on 2018, my fondest memories were of hunting and being outdoors with my own kids, but also sharing outdoor experiences with youth, women and others new to hunting. We do this through hunter education, the **Texas Youth Hunting Program (tyhp.org)**, **Becoming an Outdoors Woman** and other excellent programs! We must count our blessings to live in a country with such a great hunting & conservation heritage. We get the privilege of "taking our guns, whistling for our dogs and getting out to act 'Paleolithic' for a while..."

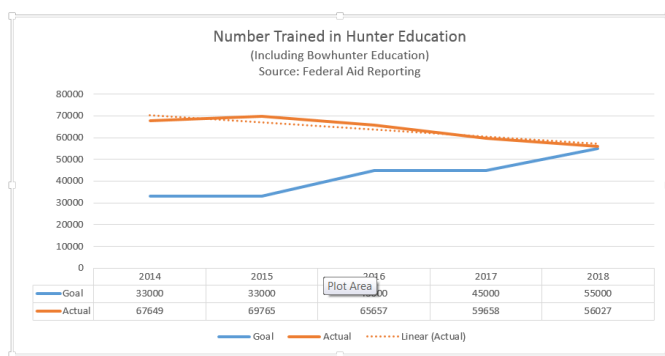
- Steve Hall, Hunter Education Coordinator

CALENDAR – SAVE THESE 2019 DATES!

- **JANUARY – Mentor Hunts** - Athens (Waterfowl) - monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov and Kerrville (Deer) - heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jan 17-20th – Dallas Safari Club Convention** - monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jan 19th – N TX HE Instructor Meeting - Hunter Ethics & Responsibility** – w/ DSC Convention Pass - monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jan 23rd – HE Instructor Course/Ag Clays (24th)** – Corpus Christi - brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jan 25 - 27th – Houston Safari Club (HSC) Convention** – heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jan 25th – Youth Hunting Opportunities @ HSC Youth Wildlife Cons Expo** heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Jan 26th – SE TX Hunter Ed Instructor Mtg. @ HSC Convention/Pass** - heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Feb 1st – Hunter/Bowhunter Education Instructor Course** at Mission Tejas State Park (SP) – [monica.bickerstaff](mailto:monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov) or heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Feb 2nd – Tree Stand Safety 101** Mission Tejas SP – [monica.bickerstaff](mailto:monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov) or heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Feb 13-17th – SALE Junior Shootout** - San Antonio – morgan.harbison@tpwd.texas.gov
- **22-24th – Trapper Education Workshop**, Bridgeport – randy.spradlin@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Feb 26th – Volunteer - Laser Shot @ Ranching & Wildlife Expo; Hunter Ed @ Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo** - heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Mar 1-2nd – Survival Workshop** – Palo Pinto randy.spradlin@tpwd.texas.gov
- **Mar 7th (3D), 28-29th – NASP Tourneys** – Belton
- **Apr 6-7th – Turkey Hunting 101 w/Hunt** – Three Rivers – brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov
- **APR 26-28th 2019 THEIA Hunt. Ed. Inst. Conf.** Uvalde, TX – brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov

2018 Accomplishments (FY 17 #s)

- Hunter Education **Students Certified** – 55,862
- Hunter Education **Courses** – 3,575
- Hunter Education **New Instructors Certified** – 351
- **Active Instructors** – 3,110
- **Volunteer Hours** – 29,276
- Value of **In-kind Match** – \$ 702,624.00 (@ \$24 per hour)
- **New Online Registration System** – New Hunter Education Registration & Data Base Management System implemented, instructors trained, Hunter Education students/instructors registered; Thousands of calls handled for training, course queries, certificate printed/changed
- **Hunting Incidents** - 21; HE Students Involved - 5
- **Becoming An Outdoors Woman** – 2 major workshops held (Texas 4-H Center, Brownwood; Camp for All, Camp El Tesoro, Granbury) – **150 Women, 82 Volunteers/workshop**
- **Texas Annual Instructor Conference**, Banquet and Awards – Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley – Top Awards Presented (e.g. Statewide and Regional Instructors of the Year, Professional Educator, Game Warden, Team and Partner of the Year, T.D. Carroll Award (Hosted by *Texas Hunter Education Instructor's Association*) – **67 Instructors**
- **Hunter Education Initiative (Texas AgriLife Extension)** – **211** Master Volunteers trained; **528** trained in hunter education; **1,886** participants reached by trained volunteers
- **TX Youth Hunting Program Partnership (TX Wildlife Assn)** – **1,175** youth hunters; **229** hunts; **383** new Hunt Masters; new partnerships with Calvary Baptist (Austin);
- **Hunting for Conservation** (national) – **39** participants - TPWD Employees/Master Naturalists
- **Hunter Ed Outreach** – **9,466** participants reached by staff-led hunter education events and activities (e.g. Mentor/Challenge Hunts, Summer Camps; Festivals/Fairs; Career Days; Shows; Retail Shows, Business Luncheons)
- **Mobile Shooting Range** - **10,379** shooters; + **4,130 participants** reached in outreach events



TX - NRA Youth Hunter Ed Challenge



Above: (L to R) **Clayton Golden, Hannah Ventura, Hunter Hinz and Bryce Baca** take home medals at the Annual **NRA Youth Hunter Education State Challenge (YHEC)** held in early

October at Arlington Sportsman's Club.



Left: TX YHEC Coordinator & Area Chief HE Inst, **David Hammonds, Ft. Worth**, awards a muzzleloader to **Hannah Ventura**.

(L to R) **Bryce Baca, Clay Nesvadba, Hunter Hinz, Christopher Dean and Ethan Hemsath** were honored by David Hammonds for winning awards at the recent Youth Hunter Education Challenge. **Jeanette Hammonds**, also Area Chief, worked behind the scenes to make sure that YHEC program succeeds in Texas. Several of the teams and some individuals will get to travel to Raton, NM in the summer of 2019 to compete in the national competition on behalf of Texas. Go Texas YHEC!



Student Air Rifle (SAR) Program Comes to the Lone Star State

The **Student Air Rifle (SAR) Program** is now officially in Texas! Modeled after the popular *National Archery in Schools Program*, SAR will bring air rifle safety, handling and target shooting to thousands of school children in grades 4-12. The **Texas State Rifle Association Foundation** is the primary sponsor/partner in TX.



(L to R): **Denise Harmel-Garza, Brock Minton, Sharon Cundiff, Larry Hysmith, Randy Spradlin, Steve Hall, Heidi Rao, Morgan Harbison, Monica Bickerstaff and Angela Gerlich** were certified as the 1st **Basic Air Riflery Instructor Trainers (BARIT)**. Thanks to **David Baxter**, Spring ISD HE instructor, for hosting! SAR exercises serve as excellent live-fire opportunities in hunter education courses to reinforce the primary hunting & shooting safety rules.



The first Texas **Basic Air Riflery Instructors (BARI)** were certified in November at Edward Roberson Middle School in Houston. (L to R): **Jake Hindman** - National SAR President/CEO, **Lloyd Love** - Pasadena Memorial HS, **Randy Larson** - Baytown Goose Creek Memorial HS, **Sam Stanley** - Sulphur Bluff ISD, **Laurie Aubin** - South Houston HS, **Debra Lang** - Sam Rayburn HS, **David Baxter** - Spring ISD and **Jan Morris**, SAR Program Manager.

If YOU want to become a SAR teacher or trainer, please email steve.hall@tpwd.texas.gov or **Angela Gerlich, TSRA Foundation** at agerlich@tsrafoundation.com and look for SAR one-day teacher training in your region!

TX Hunter Education Staff Contacts



(L to R): **Heidi Rao, Randy Spradlin, Morgan Harbison, Brock Minton, Steve Hall and Monica Bickerstaff**

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512-389-8142 w (MAIN CONTACT in Austin)



2018 TYHP Youth & Mentor Hunts

Oct 2018 - Rancho Tio Moya, King Ranch, Kenedy County



(L to R) Back Row Guides/Adults: **Megan Kolbe (TYHP Huntmaster), Oscar Galindo, Victor Cantu, Danny Sanchez, TJ Villa, Bryan Storm, Oscar Salinas.** Front Row Hunters: **Audrey Galindo, Gabriel Cantu, Quisto Sanchez, Tyler Villa, Camryn Storm, Emma Snelson, Maria Snelson, Roel Salinas**

Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) Huntmaster, Megan Kolbe, led a TYHP hunt specifically for Falfurrias FFA Chapter, along with another Ag Science teacher at Brooks County ISD in Falfurrias and Mr. Gary Meade, Director at Rancho Tio Moya. Kolbe said, "I absolutely LOVE organizing this hunt for my kids!" The youth took six bucks, six does, three hogs and two javelinas on the October 2018 TYHP hunt.

"As the first hint of fall sweeps through South Texas and the temperature begins to drop, we dig our jackets out of the closet, buy something that smells like pumpkin spice, and prep for the holiday season that will be here quicker than it was last year. For Falfurrias FFA members, however, fall brings the opportunity to drop their names into a hat for an opportunity to spend a weekend chasing whitetails on a pristine piece of South Texas ranch country. And, that is what seven lucky FFA members had the opportunity to do.

To see the pure excitement on a child's face after he/she harvests his/her first animal is something every person should experience. The partnership between the Texas Wildlife Association and TPWD allows youth to experience hunting through safe, educational, hands-on outdoor opportunities. Youth ages 9 and 17 are eligible to apply for these hunts via www.tyhp.org. Adults interested in contributing can do so by becoming a volunteer or HUNTMASER or by hosting a hunt on their land."
Special THANKS to Gary Meade & Rancho Tio Moya Staff!

Megan Kolbe - Hunter Ed., TYHP Huntmaster, Ag Sci. Teacher

Passing on the Hunting Heritage

San Angelo SP Annual Hunt – 26 Years & Running

Brock Minton, S TX Hunter Education Specialist and **Randy Spradlin, W TX**, assisted once again with the annual San Angelo State Park hunt started TPWD Game Warden JD Gould, with help from Todd Deere (Lead Coordinator) and Chef Roy Martin. During the 2018 hunt, youth harvested 7 deer and 3 javelina. A **BIG TEXAS THANKS** goes to the 20+ guides and sponsors including HEB, Simply LED and others!



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Host Lake Hunts

Monica Bickerstaff, N TX Hunter Education Specialist along with **Area Chief, Brent Heath** and other Northcentral TX Hunter Education Instructors assist the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** with youth and mentor hunts every year at Lake Waco. **TPWD DFW Archery Program Specialist, Travis Glick**, also guides each year during the hunt.



L to R: (Kneeling) **Stephen Brandstat, Dane Vaurecka** (2nd Row) **Deborah Davison, Eric Gonzalez, Noah Vanness, Luke Tittley, Howard Wheeler** (Back Row) **Brent Heath, Jeff White, James Fairchild, Travis Glick, Monica Bickerstaff, Pat Davison**

N TX Hunter Education Specialist Monica Bickerstaff also coordinated and assisted the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Lake Whitney** staff with a mentor deer hunt for **Irving Police Athletic League** youth (14) and their coaches. Crossbows were used to harvest 17 deer.



Buck Haven Hunt - Tuscola in West Texas

Instructors **Kathy & Gary Glass, Eola**, conducted their 8th Girls Youth Hunt at **Buck Haven Ranch** in Tuscola. The hunters received a gift from rancher, Pat Boyle. His wife, with other guides' spouses, wove mohair yarn from Angora goats on their ranch. Each knitted ear-warmers for the hunters. (See Kaitlyn wearing hers in photo below.)



L to R: **Harley, Sawyer, Olivia, Kaitlyn, Emma**
Back Row: **Hank J., Pat Boyle (Rancher), Tim K., Gary A.**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Hosts TYHP Hunt

Junior Munoz, TPWD Hunter Education Area Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) employee at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) served as huntmaster and host for a group from Furr High School, Houston, for a hog and deer hunt the first weekend in December. As part of the school's Agriculture Science Program, high schoolers learn the benefits of conservation through hunter education and TYHP (tyhp.org). **Serve Outdoors** assisted with food preparation and TPWD **Game Warden, Scott McLeod, Hunter Education Coordinator, Steve Hall** and the **USFWS staff** from Aransas NWR served as the guides/volunteers for the hunt. Youth harvested three nice bucks and a doe and enjoyed great bird watching (e.g. whooping cranes), saw the *Milky Way* and offered up "*Roses*

& Thorns" and other stories around the camp fire at night. Most of the children admitted that they did not have any thorns, except, perhaps, the many wasps and other critters they encountered in the ground blinds. All had a fabulous experience in the Coastal Plains of S TX!



TPWD Game Warden, Scott McLeod (L) and Hunter Ed Area Chief, Junior Munoz (R), watch as Furr High School youth mentors and hunters learn fire starting techniques during a hunt held at Aransas NWR in early December.



Three nice bucks were taken by Furr High School youth hunters on Sunday morning during the Aransas NWR Youth Hunt. "The bucks were moving much better, so it was worth the wait!" said one young hunter as they departed to learn how to field dress and clean the bucks.



BOW 25th Anniversary Celebration

Heidi Rao and **Monica Bickerstaff** were honored by the BOW instructors, represented here by TPWD employees, Claire Iseton (L) and Brooke Shipley, for hunter education staff's efforts in coordinating BOW workshops (10 years for Rao). The program has reached more than 10,000 participants since the first workshop in 1993. CONGRATS!



John Karger of *Last Chance Forever*, San Antonio, has been educating Texans on raptors, ecology and conservation for TPWD since the 1st Wildlife Expo in 1992. He and his assistant, Kelly Rayner, came to BOW to give yet another show, and exhibit and/or fly their bald eagles, owls, falcons and hawks. Here they conduct an "owl prow!" THANKS, John & Kelly, for your spectacular shows!

Email Heidi at heidi.rao@tpwd.texas.gov for more information and to get on the BOW list! Sign up for the *BOW FACEBOOK* ® Page to keep up with BOW!

TPWD Honored by ATA at AFWA

Dan Forster, Executive Director (L) and Josh Gold (R) of the **Archery Trade Association (ATA)**, present **Clayton Wolf, TPWD Wildlife Division Director** and **Johnnie Smith, TPWD Outreach and Education Director** with an R3 Partnership Award at the fall Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Conference in Tampa, FL. TPWD received the award for hosting the nation's first ATA Archery Academy in 2010, for adopting Explore Bowhunting in 2013, and a Spanish version in 2017.



Rao Reaches 20 Years with TPWD

SE TX Hunter Education Specialist, Heidi Rao, received her 20-year plaque, pin and congratulations from TPWD TPWD Commission Chairman, Ralph Duggins (L) and Executive Director, Carter Smith last August. Congratulations Heidi – here's to another twenty!



JOIN THEIA & IHEA-USA TODAY!

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ASSN. is the "Friends Group" for the TPWD Hunter Education Program supporting YOU -- the TEXAS Hunter Education Instructor! The **INTERNATIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – USA** was established to support state programs. **JOIN TODAY** at: www.texastheia.org



AND -- www.ihea-usa.org



Hunting 101s – Advanced Hunter Ed

Upland Game Hunting 101

Randy Spradlin, **W TX Hunter Education Specialist** held an **Upland Game 101** for hunter education instructors in December in Northwest Texas. The classroom seminar was held at the Capitola Community Center and field activities and hunt were held on Riley Brauneck's TRK Farms, a private bird hunting facility near Capitola.



L to R Kneeling: Maria Card, 'Buck' Riley Brauneck - Host, TRK Farms Standing: Karen & Lindsay Hodgdon, Kelsey Hodgdon & Morgan Harbison Back Row: - James Wise, 'Dutchess', Niki Harbison.



Combo Sporting Arms/Hunting 101s

By Heidi Rao, SE TX Hunter Education Specialist

Thanks to **Galle Ranch** for hosting the SE TX Youth Hunt following a series of **Hunting & Shooting Sports 101s!**

This past fall, several youth and their parents attended Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, and Hunting 101 workshops in Southeast Texas as part of a combination series of offerings. These teenagers were eager to continue their skills and become more proficient with firearms. After a workshop specific to each of the firearm disciplines, the new shooters then visited the *Arms Room Indoor Gun Range*, League City, to try different firearms. They attended a rifle shooting day at PSC Shooting Club in Friendswood, again trying a variety of different rifles and calibers. They also attended a shotgun shooting day at Galle Ranch in Matagorda County.

After becoming more familiar with the different firearms, they were presented an opportunity to go on a youth hunt at Galle Ranch. All hunters took game including a coyote, a hog, and five deer! If we take the time to teach students about hunting and the target sports, the passion within them sparks a greater appreciation for our hunting heritage.



Deer Hunting 101s

HE Instructor Glenn Hayes, Fredericksburg (3rd from L) and **Steve Hall, Hunter Education Coordinator**, taught three Deer Hunting 101s in conjunction with **Inks Lake State Park Disability and Mentor Hunts** in early December. Here, participants make sure their hunting rifles are sighted in prior to the hunts. Deer biology/behavior, hunting techniques, safety, laws, taking a good shot and field dressing/skinning are all a part of the seminar preceding the mentored hunting experience.



TX - National Archery in Schools

Since the **National Archery in the Schools Program's** inception in 2002 the renowned archery program has been achieving its mission of growing the shooting sports and improving students' educational performance, one *arrow* at a time, with students in grades 4-12. NASP® has a prolonged reputation of building youth confidence by presenting a sport to students they can excel in. It has expanded extracurricular programs for students giving them more options for after school activities. It has motivated academic performance. Last, but certainly not least, NASP® has supported young men and women financially by awarding scholarships to top performers at state, national, and world level tournaments. These scholarships can be used at any post-secondary education institution of the archers choosing including: college, university, tech school, specialty schools, and even military

training. In fact, since NASP®'s inception, just under 1.8 million dollars in cash scholarships have been awarded to its student archers. A total of 351 scholarships have been awarded to top NASP® performers at the national and state bulls-eye tournaments. Beginning in 2015, NASP® decided to encourage states and provinces to offer or increase scholarship awards at their state and provincial NASP® tournaments. Since that time, 20 states (incl. TX) & Canada have awarded \$490,450, and the parent NASP® organization has matched \$321,700 of those funds.

Visit NASP® at <https://www.naspschools.org/>, or email Burnie.kessner@tpwd.texas.gov for Texas information.



Target Range Grant Program News

AUSTIN, TEXAS (Nov. 30, 2018): **South Texas College (STC)** is partnering with TPWD to construct an indoor target range at the College's new Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence in Pharr. During a press conference held November 29 at the Texas State Capitol, STC was awarded \$307, 219 for the planning phase of a 13,300 sq. ft. indoor 12-lane target range through TPWD's Target Range Grant Program. TPWD's Carter Smith, Executive Director (L), and Colonel Grahame Jones (Center), were on hand for the ceremony. For information, contact grant manager, Renan Zambrano (3rd from L), at renan.zambrano@tpwd.texas.gov.

